

youth are tomorrow's leaders." LTIA has embraced this philosophy and is investing its resources to secure a bright future for America through conservative leadership. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Leadership Training Institute of America for their outstanding training of America's youth for the past 15 years.

#### PLANNED FLOTILLA TO GAZA

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, in May, Representative TOM COLE and I led 34 of our colleagues from the House of Representatives in sending a letter to the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, urging his government to work to discourage the planned flotilla to Gaza. Earlier this month, the Turkish group IHH, one of the major organizers of the flotilla, announced that it was pulling out. This was a major victory, but other flotilla participants have opted to proceed with this provocative and unnecessary act.

The government of Israel has a right and a responsibility to protect the Israeli people. Recent events, such as the seizing of the *Victoria*, which was carrying more than 50 tons of weapons destined for Hamas militants, clearly demonstrate Israel's legitimate security concerns regarding cargo heading to Gaza.

The flotilla has nothing to do with providing aid to the people of Gaza. There are well-established avenues for getting humanitarian assistance to Gaza, but the flotilla participants' refusal to use those alternatives demonstrates that their true intention is to provoke Israel. I call on them to abandon their confrontational plans and work with Israel in allowing legitimate assistance, but not weapons, to enter Gaza.

#### JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2011*

The House on Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2021.

By overriding offshore air pollution rules H.R. 2021 dirties our coasts and oceans, endangers the health of our citizens and constituents, and keeps us trapped in the quagmire of the 20th century energy economy when we should be pressing towards the 21st.

I am distressed that many of my colleagues, while consistently touting an increased role for local and state government, want to completely overrun existing state health and environmental regulations. As the California Air Resources Board expressed in testimony, this bill will "quash local control, impose tremendous new costs on state and local government and taxpayers, and disenfranchise community groups and local stakeholders."

Let us not lose sight of the fact that the Clean Air Act is first and foremost about public

health and protecting our citizens from dangerous pollution that directly threatens their health. Turning again to testimony from the California Air Resources Board, which is supported by the Boards of other states, this bill will severely limit existing protections for public health in coastal states. I would particularly note that, as allowed for in section three, ships involved in drilling activities would not have to use emissions control technology, even though these ships already comprise the vast proportion of pollution from drilling operations.

Section two of this bill demands that the pollution being disgorged by offshore drilling projects be measured at the point of its impact with the shoreline. What some of my distinguished colleagues appear to have forgotten is that we in the coastal states actually engage in activities that extend past the shore.

Let's forget for a moment the enormous implications that this measure has for climate change and environmental degradation. What section two essentially states is that the health and safety of our fishermen, boaters, and the workers engaging in the very projects that are the topic of the present debate are inconsequential. I oppose this bill so strongly because these are the people who deserve and need to be protected.

For these reasons, I offer my complete support to my colleague from California, Representative SPEIER, one of the many Members here today whose constituents will suffer directly under this provision. Her amendment to cut section two from this bill represents at least a small step toward limiting the appalling health and environmental consequences of H.R. 2021, and I support that amendment unconditionally.

My district is home to the Port of Oakland, the fourth busiest container port in the United States. Large container ships like the ones we're talking about here produce enormous amounts of pollution, and when loading and unloading at ports and docks can contribute drastic health consequences for the surrounding communities. These communities, like West Oakland in my district, are often home to poor communities and people of color, groups that remain under-represented in this body. Sacrificing their health and the health of coastal communities all around this country to increase the profits of big polluters like Shell Oil Company is flat-out wrong. I do not and will not support it.

This bill would allow the world's largest oil companies to circumvent pollution standards that have protected our air and health for decades. Rolling back environmental protections hurts my constituents, and it hurts Americans all around the country.

H.R. 2021 is bad for our health, bad for our environment, and bad for our country. I stand firmly with my colleagues in opposing this bill.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JULIANA OSGOOD

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Juliana Osgood for being named a state winner of the Library of Congress's Letters about Literature program.

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing program that is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The program asks students to write to the past or present author of

a book that affected their life. Nearly 70,000 young readers from across the country submitted letters last year to compete for the state-level awards for 2011.

A panel of judges that can include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers, and even state officials chose Juliana's letter as a state winner. Juliana wrote a letter to author Patricia MacLachlan to explain how MacLachlan's book, *Edward's Eyes*, affected her life. *Edward's Eyes* is a story of a family's love and loss that chronicles the difficulty of dealing with the painful moments in life. MacLachlan's acclaimed novel spoke to Juliana, and now Juliana's letter to MacLachlan has earned her recognition in her community as well as here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Juliana's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating her for her achievement and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

#### RETIREMENT OF REV. CESSAR L. SCOTT, SR. AS EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

#### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2011*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Cessar L. Scott, Sr., Executive Minister of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. Rev. Scott is retiring this year after 33 years of service as Executive Minister, and I would like to take this moment to recognize some of his numerous accomplishments during that time.

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia, Rev. Scott received his undergraduate degree from Virginia Union University in 1966 and his divinity degree from VUU's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology in 1970. He also earned a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Rev. Scott first became Executive Minister of the General Convention in 1978. Founded in 1899, The Baptist General Convention of Virginia is the mission organization network, representing over 1000 churches in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the Executive Minister, Rev. Scott coordinates the day-to-day operation of the Convention, supervising its ministries and programs. These ministries offer conferences, workshops and retreats, and provide written resources on issues like Christian Education, Men's and Women's Health, and Youth Development.

Through his work at the Baptist General Convention, Rev. Scott has also supported many other state and national institutions including: the Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc; Virginia One Church, One Child Adoption Program; the Chaplain's Prison Ministry; the United Negro College Fund; National